

Research and Development Work in Medicine

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) the percentage of GDP earmarked and spent for research and development work in the field of modern and ancient medicine during the Seventh Plan,

(b) the notable achievements made in finding new drugs during that period and

(c) the new thrust and direction proposed to be provided in this regard in the Eighth Plan

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) No such data is available. However, the percentage of GDP earmarked for Health has been estimated to be around 0.9%. Out of the total allocation for health, about 7% were spent on research and development activities during the 7th Plan under the health sector.

(b) The notable achievements made in finding new drugs during the 7th Plan are indicated in the Statement attached.

(c) The works in thrust areas initiated during the 7th Plan relating to communicable and non-communicable diseases, fertility control, nutrition, etc., would continue and expand during 8th Plan. Moreover, certain areas like diarrhoeal disease control programme and dimensions of HIV epidemic have also been identified for the 8th Plan period.

STATEMENT

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Indian Council of Medical

Research has intimated that after clinical trials have demonstrated the safety and efficacy of short course chemotherapy (SCC) in pulmonary and extra pulmonary tuberculosis, the SCC was introduced into the National Tuberculosis Control Programme.

The Council's clinical trials resulted in defining the optimum combination of drugs for treatment of leprosy and optimum duration of therapy in multi paucibacillary leprosy.

ICMR has been funding a trial of ICRG vaccine for immunoprophylaxis against leprosy in Maharashtra and has recently initiated a comparative evaluation of antileprosy vaccine in Tamil Nadu.

Studies on safety and efficacy of JE vaccine obtained from the Central Research Institute, Kasauli have been carried out by NIV Pune and STM Calcutta. Data from these studies showed that the vaccine was safe and free from major side effects. Three doses of vaccine achieved satisfactory seroconversion.

During 1990 more than 50,000 doses of vaccine were prepared at KED vaccine production Unit, Shimoga, Karnataka. 80,000 doses of vaccine prepared in 1989-90 were released to immunisation in 1990. Studies to assess the serological response to three doses of three commercially available Hepatitis B vaccines produced satisfactory results.

S typhi strains isolated from children suffering from typhoid fever in many parts of the country were found to be resistant to most of the